

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/918,144

Examiner

JEAN B. FLEURANTIN

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 28 May 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12,20-31,39-50,58-60,64-66 and 70-72.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 28 May 2004 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-12, 20-31, 39-50, 58-60, 64-66 and 70-72, drawn to a method for maintaining workflow related information, comprising: providing at least one table in a database storing workflow related data; providing a plurality of programming interfaces, wherein each programming interface specifies an operation to perform on the workflow related data in the at least one table, classified in class 707, subclass 101.

II. Claims 13-19, 32-38, 51-57, 61-63, 67-69 and 73-75, drawn to a method for maintaining information in a database, comprising: receiving column definitions for multiple columns in at least one table; and for each table for which column definitions are received, classified in class 707, subclass 200.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Invention listed Group I and Group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention has separate utility as follow.

Group I. A method for maintaining workflow related information, comprising: providing at least one table in a database storing workflow related data.

Group II. A method for maintaining information in a database, comprising: receiving column definitions for multiple columns in at least one table.

See MPEP 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons give above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications, restriction for examination purposes is proper.

Because these invention are distinct for the reasons given above and the search for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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During a telephone conversation with Mr. Rabindranath Dutta (Reg. No. 51, 010) on August 20, 2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-12, 20-31, 39-50, 58-60, 64-66 and 70-72. Affirmation of this election must be made by the applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 13-19, 32-38, 51-57, 61-63, 67-69 and 73-75 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Rabindranath Dutta (Reg. No. 51, 010) on August 20, 2004 on August 20, 2004.

The application has been amended as follow:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 13-19, 32-38, 51-57, 61-63, 67-69 and 73-75.

Please amend claim 22.

Claim 22, line 1, change "The system of claim 22," to - - The system of claim 20,

- -.

Reasons For Allowance

4. Claims 1-12, 20-31, 39-50, 58-60, 64-66 and 70-72 are allowed over the prior.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1, 4, 39 and 42, the claimed features "providing in the database one stored procedure for each stored procedure call and corresponding method" in combination with other element of the independent claims would not found anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record. With respect to claim 20, the claimed features "means for providing one stored procedure in the database for each stored procedure call and corresponding programming interface, wherein the one stored procedure includes a plurality of database statements to perform the programming interface operation" in combination with other element of the independent claims would not found anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record. With respect to claim 23, the claimed features "means for providing stored procedure call and stored procedures in the database for each set of programming interface to implement the programming interface operation set, wherein the one stored procedure is provided for each stored procedure call and corresponding method" in combination with other element of the independent claims would not found anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

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6. The closest prior art, Leymann et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,065,009 relates to the field of process management in a workflow environment on computer systems and the field of computerized transaction but fails to teach the above limitations.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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CONTACT INFORMATION


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEAN B. FLEURANTIN whose telephone number is 703 - 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:05 to 4:35.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 703 - 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jean Bolte Fleurantin

August 20, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER